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10/598,654	03/21/2007	Philip Edgar Vasey	760-022	8537
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Anderson Gorecki & Manaras LLP				
33 NAGOG PARK				
ACTON, MA 01720				
EXAMINER				
STORK, KYLE R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2178				
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07/01/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/598,654

Applicant(s)

VASEY, PHILIP EDGAR

Examiner

KYLE R. STORK

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This final office action is in response to the Remarks filed 10 June 2010.
2. Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1 and 15-16 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-29 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maes et al. (EP 1100013, published 16 May 2001, hereafter Maes) and further in view of Mukherjee (US 6314415, filed 4 November 1998).

As per independent claim 1, Maes discloses a method of generating invocation sequences of update function to update elements of a form, the method comprising the steps of:

supplying update functions to a synthesizer (paragraph 0018)

identifying trigger elements from the elements of the form in the update functions that trigger the invocation of the update function (paragraphs 0018 and 0022)

generating an activation network based on the update functions at the synthesizer (paragraphs 0018, 0022, and 0108-0109)

determining the invocation sequence of update functions for each trigger element (paragraphs 0018, 0022, and 0108-0109: Here, upon identifying an update function, the CML interpreter determines the CML function to be invoked to handle the update).

Maes fails to disclose update values associated with a question in a questionnaire form used to obtain information to produce a customized document from a template document, the invocation sequence specifying an order in which the update functions are invoked comprising the step of identifying, using the synthesizer, trigger questions from the questions of the questionnaire that trigger the invocation of at least one supplied update functions. However, Mukherjee discloses update values associated with a question in a questionnaire form used to obtain information to produce a customized document from a template document, the invocation sequence specifying an order in which the update functions are invoked comprising the step of identifying, using the synthesizer, trigger questions from the questions of the questionnaire that trigger the invocation of at least one supplied update functions (Figures 3A-3L; column 2, line 19- column 3, line 5: Here, based upon the user's answers to trigger questions within the questionnaire, various other questions become available/disabled). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Mukherjee with Maes, since it would have allowed a user to specify trigger questions across a plurality of templates displayed to users upon various devices.

As per dependent claim 2, Mukherjee discloses wherein the trigger elements are determined by at least one of the value or status of the elements of the form (Figures

3A-3L; column 2, line 19- column 3, line 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Mukherjee with Maes, since it would have allowed a user to answer questions related to previously validated answers.

As per dependent claim 3, Maes discloses wherein the activation network includes cyclic update functions (paragraph 0018).

As per dependent claim 4, Maes discloses exporting the update functions and the invocation sequence to a form render in a readable format (paragraph 0022: Here, the data is sent to a browser in a mark-up language, so that the data may be rendered and displayed to a user in a readable format).

As per dependent claim 5, Maes discloses wherein the update function are validation function (paragraphs 0061-0064 and 0087).

As per dependent claim 6, Maes discloses wherein the update function are activation functions (paragraphs 0110-0117).

As per dependent claim 7, Maes discloses wherein the synthesizer is stored on a server computer (paragraph 0017).

As per dependent claim 8, Maes discloses wherein the synthesizer is stored on a client computer (paragraph 0017).

As per dependent claim 9, Maes discloses wherein the synthesizer forms part of a middleware application, located between a server computer and a client computer (Figure 5a).

As per dependent claim 10, Maes discloses wherein the synthesizer is integrated with the form renderer (paragraph 0022: Here, the synthesizer is incorporated with a browser, which renders the form data).

As per dependent claim 11, Maes discloses wherein the form render is a web browser application (paragraphs 0018 and 0022).

As per dependent claim 12, Maes discloses wherein the update functions are supplied by one of a database engine and a form renderer (paragraph 0061).

As per dependent claim 13, Mukherjee discloses wherein the step of determining the invocation sequence involves determining the order in which the update functions must be executed within the activation network (Figures 3A-3L; column 2, line 19- column 3, line 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Mukherjee with Maes, since it would have allowed a user to enable/disable necessary/unnecessary questions.

As per dependent claim 14, Maes discloses the method further comprising:
entering data to change the status of a first form element (paragraphs 0022 and 0084: Here, the data may change a default value of a form element)

determining the position of the first form element in the activation network (paragraphs 0022 and 0084)

triggering the update functions associated with the first form element to update the status of a second form element (paragraphs 0022 and 0084: Here, if the default value of 'yes' is changed, the value of a second form element 'travelCenter.hotel.selected' is modified by a user).

As per claim 15, the applicant discloses the limitation substantially similar to those in claim 1. Claim 15 is similarly rejected.

As per claims 16-29, the applicant discloses the limitations substantially similar to those in claims 1-14, respectively. Claims 16-29 are similarly rejected.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 10 June 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant's argument is based upon the belief that the prior art fails to disclose determining the sequence in which to invoke update functions by identifying the trigger questions and then using an activation network to select the invocation sequence for the update functions (page 8). However, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Maes discloses identification of trigger elements from the elements of the form in the update functions that trigger the invocation of the update function (paragraphs 0018, 0022, and 0061). In this instance, the selection to submit data, or "Order drink," causes the invocation of the update function (Figure 3; paragraph 0061). Although the applicant argues that the preferred embodiment maintains an acyclic graph, and a breadth-first expansion is applied in order to determine the order in which update functions are to be invoked (pages 7-8), such limitations are not contained within the claims. For this reason, these arguments are not persuasive.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KYLE R. STORK whose telephone number is (571)272-4130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kyle R Stork/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2178